

Mr. Speaker: May I request the Prime Minister to say something in this matter? Here is the statement which was given to me this morning.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shrimati Indira Gandhi): He will say it himself.

Mr. Speaker: I join with the appeal made by the hon. Members that Shri Shukla himself may say it.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: I will read the whole statement again.

I rise to clarify certain points arising out of the allegations made by Shri A. K. Gopalan, M.P. in his statement under rule 357 on 27th March, 1967.

When this question first arose on March 11, 1965, the then Hon'ble Speaker observed as follows:

"If someone writes to me that this was incorrect, certainly I would find out from the Member from where he got it and the House has the authority to take action against the Member if any wrong statement is made. That is the usual practice."

After this, my comments were called for by the Hon'ble Speaker on 1st July, 1965. I furnished my comments and also sent certain documents for the Speaker to be satisfied that the allegations made by me were *prima facie* justifiable on the basis of the evidence. No further action was taken by the Speaker. I was, therefore, well justified in presuming that the material furnished by me had satisfied the Speaker, in view of his observations quoted above. Shri Gopalan may dispute the probative value of evidence. But I logically presumed that the Speaker was convinced of there being *prima facie* ground for what I had alleged. And this is all that I mentioned on this point on 18th March, 1967.

About my remarks on the issue of expunction, there is no justification in motives being attributed to me. It is a matter of record and what I spoke from memory could always be checked with the record and duly corrected. The mistake is *bona fide* inadvertence but even for this very minor slip I have hardly any hesitation in saying that I am sorry.

12.28 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

CENTRAL SILK BOARD

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (3)(c) of Section 4 of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948, the members of Lok Sabha do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from among themselves to serve as members of the Central Silk Board, for the term commencing from the 9th April, 1967."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (3) (c) of Section 4 of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948, the members of Lok Sabha do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from among themselves to serve as members of the Central Silk Board, for the term commencing from the 9th April, 1967."

The motion was adopted.

12.29 hrs.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

Shri M. R. Masani (Rajkot): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Kunte had agreed to accept nomination on the basis of an understanding that, as the unanimous choice of the Opposition parties, he was acceptable to the Prime

[Shri M. R. Masani]

Minister and the Congress party. All Opposition parties in this House are even now unanimous in support of Mr. Kunte. I would like to know, before I move my motion, from the hon. leader of the House whether she adheres to the understanding that the unanimous choice of the Opposition parties will be acceptable to her and her party. It is only after that... *(Interruption)*.

Mr. Speaker: When the motion is being moved, he cannot ask a question like that. *(Interruption)*.

Shri M. R. Masani: I will be able to decide whether or not to move this... *(Interruption)*.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: (Kendrapara): On a point of order, Sir. I think he is within his right to ask this question. Now, the question before the House is the election of the Deputy Speaker. Before he moves the motion, he wants to put a question as to whether unanimous choice of the Opposition is agreeable to the Congress party.

Mr. Speaker: That is a different matter.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: What prevents her to say 'Yes' or 'No'? *(Interruption)*.

Mr. Speaker: It ought to have been discussed outside the House, not inside the House, whether she is going to agree or not. We cannot discuss it here. It is the election of the Deputy Speaker. If he wants to move his motion, he may move it or withdraw it. *(Interruption)* It is not proper to enter into a discussion here.

Shri Frank Anthony (Nominated—Anglo-Indians): This is a very crucial matter and it might assume bitter controversy. I am making an appeal to Mr. Masani, to the Leader of the House and also to you that

you postpone this matter for two days.....

Some hon. Members: No, no.

Shri Frank Anthony: ...otherwise, the whole thing will degenerate into such a state of bitterness that the functioning of Parliament will become almost impossible. I am making this appeal. The discretion is yours.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee (Burdwan): rose—

Shri Sonavane (Pandharpur): I want to know whether the Opposition can spring a surprise... *(Interruptions)*, can take the House by surprise without anything on the agenda. I want to know whether this would be in order—the proposal of the Opposition to ask the Leader of the House and not to go on with the agenda.

Shri Krishna Kumar Chatterji (Howrah): Under what rule can you permit this discussion to follow?

Mr. Speaker: A member in whose name a motion stands on the list of business may, when called, move the motion or withdraw the motion, and shall confine himself to a mere statement to that effect.

I have no objection. But the motion has to be moved. Somebody else may withdraw. It may happen. I do not know.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North-East): The whole country is discussing certain circumstances relating to the proposed unanimous election of the Deputy-Speaker. The whole country is discussing it. All the papers today have referred to it... *(Interruptions)*.

On a point of propriety....

Mr. Speaker: I do not mind either way, but there should not be any discussion.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: On a point of propriety, I am entitled to this in spite of whatever the people on that

side might imagine.

There are certain things which should be done with propriety and dignity in this House. On the question of election of Deputy-Speaker, which is the next item on the agenda, there have been discussions on a Parliamentary level, with which the whole country is familiar. Perhaps the Prime Minister does not choose to claim to be familiar at this present moment, but the whole country is familiar with certain discussions which were intended to bring about a dignified election to the office of the Deputy-Speaker in this House.

Mr. Speaker: Outside the house and not inside the House. Here there will be election.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: You have to administer the canons of propriety, the canons of Parliamentary propriety which we can all learn in good time. You have to imbibe those canons (*Interruptions*). There was an effort made to make the Parliamentary procedure smooth and dignified in this House and that is being subverted by a certain attitude. What Mr Masani is asking for is only for a reiteration of the assurance already given. (*Interruptions*).

Shri Krishna Kumar Chatterji: Can the question of propriety override the rules?

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: The letter killeth but the spirit giveth life.

श्री तुलसीदास जाबब (बाराभती) : इस पार्लियमेंट में जो काम चलता है वह जो रूप बने हुए हैं उनके अनुसार चलता है। कुछ नियम हैं उनके अनुसार चलता है। आप भी बार-बार कहते हैं लेकिन आप की बात भी कई दफा नहीं मानी जाती है। जो सनिट मैम्बर हैं, जो सीनियर मैम्बर हैं, जो इस पार्लियमेंट में बस पन्द्रह बरस

से हैं वे भी आप की बात को नहीं सुनते हैं। आप बार-बार कहते हैं, रिक्वेस्ट करते हैं लेकिन सुनते नहीं हैं। यह जो हाउस है यह डेमोक्रेसी की हाइएस्ट बारी है....

Shri Vasudevan Nair (Peermade): Let him not talk of democracy in that manner.

श्री तुलसीदास जाबब: जहां जो बानगी बात है, जो प्राइवेट बात है इलेक्शन के मौके पर कहना कोई लाजिमी नहीं है।

मैं प्रपना जो प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर है वह आपके सामने रखना चाहता हूँ। मेरी प्रपना है कि प्रपना जो रूल 8(3) है रूल ऑफ प्रोसीजर का, उस को देखें। वह हम प्रकार है

"A member in whose name a motion stands on the list of business may, when called, move the motion or withdraw the motion, and shall confine himself to a mere statement to that effect."

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): This is all irrelevant.

श्री तुलसीदास जाबब: यह होते हुए भी मसानी साहब जैसे अनुभवी प्राइमी किस तरह से कोई स्टेटमेंट कर सकते हैं, यह मेरी समझ में नहीं आया है। मेरी रिक्वेस्ट आप से यह है कि आप किसी और को कोई बात कहने का मौका न देते हुए जो मोशन है डिप्टी स्पीकर के लिए उसको करवायें।

श्री जय लिनये (मुंगेर) : प्रभी जिस नियम को पढ़कर तुलसीदास जी ने सुनाया है उस में यह कहा गया है कि प्रस्ताव पेश करते समय वह भाषण न करें, केवल प्रस्ताव रखें। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि प्रभी उन्होंने प्रस्ताव ही कहाँ रखा है? उस के पहले ही... (इंटरपोज़िशन) आप जरा हल्का न

[श्री. बाबू-लिम्बो]

करें, बात की-सुनें। मैं भाषण का ध्यान 389 की ओर दिखाना चाहता हूँ। हल्का करने से क्या होगा ? हार जाओगे और भी बुरी तरह ? 389 को देख लीजिये। 389 के मातहत भाष मसाली साहब को इजाजत दे सकते हैं। और प्रधान मंत्री कांग्रेस पार्टी की नेता हों कहे, या न कहे, बाकी कुछ नहीं। उस के बाद वह कहेंगे मैं प्रस्ताव पेश कर रहा हूँ, या नहीं कर रहा हूँ। वह भाषण नहीं करेंगे उस समय, अब भाष 389 देख लीजिए। उस में यह लिखा है :

"All matters not specifically provided for in these rules and all questions relating to the detained working of these rules shall be regulated in such manner as the Speaker may, from time to time, direct."

शेष अधिकार इन के पास हैं। चूँकि आपस में समझौता हो गया था—यह सतरह तारीख की बात है—और प्रधान मंत्री ने यह आयवासन दिया था कि विरोधी दलों में अगर ए. राय हो जाएगी, इति-फाक हो जायगा .. (इंटरप्राय्ज) हमें बात को खत्म करने नहीं देते हैं। भाष इन को रोकिये। मैं अपनी बात को खत्म कर रहा हूँ। उन्होंने कहा-था कि विरोधी दलों के द्वारा जो सर्वसम्मति नाम आया-उस को कह मारेंगी। अब अगर इस समझौते के बरबिलाफ वह जाना चाहती हैं तो यह उनकी इच्छा पर निर्भर करता है। हम जानते हैं कि उनके कक्ष के अन्दर ऐसे तत्व हैं जो यह बर्ही चाहते हैं। कौन कौन बचाव उनके बल के अन्दर हैं। उनको हम जानते हैं, ऐसे कांग्रेसियों से भी हमारी बात हुई है। जिन को यह भीतर-पसन्द नहीं है। इस मामले में बाबू-लिम्बो बोल रहे हैं। यह जो शेष बाकी बात है, बचाव वाली

बात है इसको आप आपस से लीजिये। फिर अगर कोई पता चलेगा। इस लिए मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि भाष, अध्यक्ष सहित इजाजत दे सकते हैं। हाँ या न वे कहें।

Mr. Speaker: May I request all hon. Members to resume their seats? Order, order. After all, it is a question of moving a motion. Where the rules do not provide for something, the Speaker certainly has the power. But where the rule clearly makes provision the rule has to be observed. Apart from that, here is a motion for the election of the Deputy-Speaker ...

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I call the conduct of the Prime Minister immoral; she says something outside but she says something else here.

Mr. Speaker: I cannot compel or force anybody to say something and to agree or not to agree to something within the House.

श्री मधु लिम्बो पूछ लीजिये भाष उनसे। हाँ या न कहे।

Mr. Speaker: Here is the agenda before us which says that we have to elect the Deputy-Speaker. Here are the motions to be moved by about half a dozen Members Whether they are going to be moved or not, whether there is going to be a contest or not is a different matter. As the Speaker, I have to conduct the election. So, let us proceed with it. Therefore, I request Shri M. R. Masani to move the motion which stands in his name.

Shri M. R. Masani: I can only conclude from the Prime Minister's silence that she is not prepared to stick to the understanding that was arrived at. Therefore, I do not move the motion. (Interruptions).

Shri Seshivan (Kumbakonam): Why are you shouting?

Shri Sri Chand Goyal (Chandigarh): Why not "Dear" the Prime Minister? She wants to say something.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: In the interest of democracy, we have to build up some sound conventions (Interruptions).

Please hear me for a minute. (Interruptions).

Mr. Speaker: Shri Prakash Vir Shastri.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री (हापुड़) : मैं अपना प्रस्ताव पेश नहीं करना चाहता हूँ।

Shri Bal Raj Madhek (South Delhi): I would make an appeal to the Prime Minister that in the interest of the unity of the House, in the interest of parliamentary propriety, in the interest of dignity of Parliament, she should stick to the understanding that she had given. If she is not prepared to do so, I do not move my motion.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Sreekantan Nair.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair (Quilon): In order to test the integrity of the Congress, I do not move my motion.

Mr. Speaker: Dr Ram Subhag Singh.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Communications (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh) rose—

Shri M. E. Masani: In view of this attitude of the Prime Minister, we do not wish to participate in this election. We, therefore, withdraw from the House.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I beg to move:

"That Shri R. K. Khadikar, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House".

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah (Nandyal): I second the motion.

श्री पद्म विभव : अध्यक्ष महोदय, हमें सभा को खोजकर, माहुर खाने, श्री खड्गलत

दीजिए। अब कोई भी प्रस्ताव वादयी इन लोगों के सभ्य समझौते त करे। अब कोई सहयोग की बात न की जाये।

श्री कल्लिभुवन, खड्गलत (खारखोन) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, विरोधी सदस्य प्रापस में राष्ट्र-घोर लेफ्ट का झगड़ा करते हैं और हम से उम्मीद करते हैं कि हम इन के उम्मीदवार को डिप्टी स्पीकर बना दें।

श्री रामसेक (बाराबकी) : प्राप थुको और चाटो।

(Some hon. Members then left the House)

Mr. Speaker: There is only one motion before the House.

The question is:

"That Shri R. K. Khadikar, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House".

Those in favour of the motion will kindly say 'aye'.

Several hon. Members: 'Aye'.

Mr. Speaker: Those against will kindly say 'No'.

Some hon. Members: No

Mr. Speaker: The 'Ayes' have it; the 'Ayes' have it. The motion is carried.

The motion was adopted.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shrimati Indira Gandhi): They have participated in the voting.

[**Mr. Speaker:** I declare Shri R. K. Khadikar elected as the Deputy-Speaker.]

May I request the Deputy-Speaker to come and occupy his seat?

[**Mr. Deputy-Speaker (Shri R. K. Khadikar)** then occupied his seat.]

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: I wish to say something in reply to what Shri Masani said to clarify the situation.

[Shrimati Indira Gandhi]

It is true that we had said that if the Opposition was united, we would not put up any candidate. However, till just before 12 noon yesterday, which was the limit for giving names, the Opposition was not united. Even afterwards, it seems they had a meeting, and they came and told me they were united; but our information even after that meeting was that they were not united on this issue. It was possible also that if we had withdrawn our candidate, their names might have remained. Therefore, the position till late last night was not at all clear.

I had said very clearly to Shri Masani that if before 12 noon yesterday, which was the time-limit for nominations, they did not give us a clear indication, we would put up a candidate. I just wanted to clarify that point.

Shri Masani said that he knew—he admitted to me—that there were three groups, large groups with large numbers involved, without the Opposition who did not support their nomination. But he said you should not bother about those people. That is what I wanted to clarify.

Shri Frank Anthony: May I say something? It is really unfortunate that this has happened. I personally would like very much to have seen a Member from the Opposition chosen as the Deputy Speaker. As a matter of fact, I was at most of the meetings with the Prime Minister and I had hoped that some kind of a convention would emerge by which the Speaker would be from the ruling party and the Deputy Speaker from the Opposition. I am sorry Mr. Masani is not here because quite frankly from what personal knowledge I have I think the responsibility for this convention not emerging rests primarily on Members of the Opposition. I was at the first meeting with the Prime Minister and I had a very clear impression that there was an implied understanding

that the speakership would go to the ruling party and the Deputy-speakership to the Opposition. Mr. Dwivedy did not agree with me. After the vote I spoke to the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister. The Prime Minister told us that it was very clear and it had been communicated to Mr. Masani that there was an implicit understanding: speakership from the Congress Party and the Deputy-Speakership from the opposition. Apparently some Members—I am trying to be fair to some colleagues of mine on this side—did not approve of this; they wanted to reach for some more; they wanted some consensus.

Mr Speaker: It is all over now.

Shri Frank Anthony: I shall conclude in one minute. I said that is was quite wrong; if you agreed that the Congress Party should have its nominee as the Speaker, you cannot exercise in effect a veto. Then apparently what happened was this. The left Communists submitted a second name. I think that after that Mr. Morarji Desai came to us and said very clearly although there was no understanding, although you have voted against Mr. Sanjiva Reddy for Speakership, the Congress Party will propose or second whomsoever you put up unanimously from this side. But the left Communists were not prepared to accept Mr. Kunte. That is what I wanted to say. Technically the Congress Party was quite right but I hoped that you would have postponed this for two days whatever the shortcomings of the Opposition might be.

Some hon. Members: No.

Shri Frank Anthony: It would have been very much better if as a gesture the Congress Party had done this. I am not saying that you were to blame for this.

Now that the election is over, may I congratulate Mr. Khadilkar?

Shri Kamalnayan Bajaj (Wardha): May I ask him a question for information?

Mr. Speaker: No. I have called Mr. Khadilkar.

Shri Khadilkar (Khed): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to this august House for the great honour done to me by choosing me as the Deputy-Speaker.

Shrimati Tarakeshwari Sinha (Barh): Before he expresses his gratitude, let the Leader of the House welcome him.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: Certainly, I welcome and offer my congratulations to Mr. Khadilkar. I know he will be very fair in his dealings with both sides of the House and that there will be no cause for any complaint. Mr. Khadilkar is an old Member of this House; he has experience of this House. He has also been in the Chair many a time. I think that his being the Deputy-Speaker will be an asset and of great value to all the Members.

[Mr. Speaker: May I also associate myself with the sentiments expressed, and congratulate Shri Khadilkar who has been elected Deputy-Speaker? Now, I will have a little more time for myself to look into other papers and all that, and I am sure that Shri Khadilkar will bear and share my responsibilities, and I am also sure that both of us will try to do our best. I have no doubt that he will be a great asset and of value to me in the discharge of my duties.]

Shri Khadilkar: I am grateful to the leader and all the Members of the House and those who have put trust in me, and I hope they will extend their whole-hearted co-operation in the discharge of my duties. I assure you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, personally that you can count on my whole hearted co-operation in the discharge of your duties.

I would like to say a few words on this occasion, with your permission. In the changed context of the situation, the presiding authority in this House will have to serve as a bridge of understanding between the Government and the Opposition so that we could function in an orderly and disciplined manner, preserving the dignity and decorum and adding to the prestige of this august House. I can assure all sections of the House that I shall be strictly objective and impartial while conducting the proceedings so as to be worthy of the confidence they have reposed in me.

As one of the Members of the Panel of Chairmen, I had on occasions occupied this Chair and I have seen how most of the hon. Members co-operated in the conduct of the business and showed indulgence. The same co-operation, I trust, would be forthcoming while discharging my heavy responsibilities.

We are bound by the Constitution as well as the procedure and certain conventions and traditions. If there is a feeling that some of the procedure which we have followed so long need change or modification, that could only be done after calm and quite deliberations. After all, Parliament is an instrument for bringing about the necessary social and economic changes through debate, deliberations and decisions without disturbing the basic stability of our country.

On this occasion, I would like also to refer to a statement that I made while speaking on the no-confidence motion moved by Acharya Kripalani in August, 1963, the first of its kind. Then, I had observed:

"During the course of the struggle for freedom, it was not simply the urge to drive out foreign power. Behind that urge for freedom was a vigorous urge for social freedom, a radical social change. This fact was recognised by the leaders in our country.

[Shri Khadilkar]

So many countries have failed in this. They failed to accommodate that social urge within the political framework and, therefore, they have several difficulties; the collapse of the democratic framework was one of them. The credit for realising this social necessity goes to this Government. Those who are dispassionate students of history, while analysing the social force behind it will admit that this Government has successfully contained this social urge within a democratic framework and made democracy a viable thing. That has stabilised here. I say it with greater confidence."

I would, therefore, urge that without in anyway disturbing or weakening the democratic framework, we should all strive to achieve our social objective.

Once again, Sir, I thank all hon. Members of all sections of the House those who are present in the House, and I assure them that I will try to protect the rights and privileges of hon. Members individually as well as of the House collectively, as is expected of me.

I thank you.

12.54 hrs.

BUDGET (RAILWAYS)—DEMANDS* FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT, 1967-68 AND DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS, (RAILWAYS), 1966-67

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up the budget of the railways, the Demands for Grants on Account, and the Supplementary Demand for Grants—items 14, 15 and 16 of the Order Paper, all together. Anyway, by this evening we shall finish all the demands and put the guillotine at about 5.30.

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): Sir, may I with your permission, make a few observations?

In moving the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the current year and the Demands for Grants 'on-account' for the next year, I would like to submit that the extra requirements for Revenue Working Expenses during the current year have been reduced from Rs. 30.28 crores as printed in the book of supplementary demands to Rs. 26.92 crores, as shown in the amended notice circulated to the House. This has been done on the basis of the latest assessment of expenditure to be accounted for in the current financial year received from Railways at the end of last week. Similarly, the supplementary demand for withdrawal from the Pension Fund has also been reduced by 5.79 lakhs, from 42.41 lakhs to 36.62 lakhs, in view of the latest estimates received from Accountant General who disburse the pensions. I am, however, not reducing the figure of the demand for withdrawal from the Revenue Reserve Fund to meet the deficit, because it seems now that the increase of 4½ to 5 million tonnes in traffic during the year which I had mentioned in my Budget Speech is not likely to materialise. Loadings last month have been nearly three quarters of a million tonnes less than in February, 1966 and the figures for the first ten days of March also have not been very promising. On the basis of the latest information hardly 4 million tonnes of additional traffic is likely to be moved this year and, therefore, there might be a further shortfall of 3 to 4 crores even on the lower figure of goods earnings shown in the White Paper. I am hoping, however, that the deficit will not increase beyond the figure of 15.27 crores now proposed to be with-

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.